

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Alonzo Houston, #14598-001, |) | |
| |) | |
| Petitioner, |) | |
| |) | Civil Action No. 4:21-1617-BHH |
| v. |) | |
| |) | |
| Warden Merkinburg, |) | <u>ORDER</u> |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |
| _____ |) | |

Alonzo Houston ("Petitioner") filed a *pro se* petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. (ECF No. 1.) In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2)(c) (D.S.C.), the matter was referred to a United States Magistrate Judge for initial review.

On June 10, 2021, the Magistrate Judge filed a Report and Recommendation ("Report") outlining the issues and recommending that the Court dismiss the § 2241 petition without prejudice and without requiring Respondent to file a return. (ECF No. 6.) The Report included a notice advising Petitioner of the right to file written objections to the Report within fourteen days of being served with a copy. (*Id.* at 6.) To date, no objections have been filed, and the time for doing so expired on June 28, 2021. (See *id.* (noting objections were due by June 24, 2021, with an additional three days to be added if served by mail).)

The Magistrate Judge makes only a recommendation to the Court. The recommendation has no presumptive weight, and the responsibility to make a final determination remains with the Court. *Mathews v. Weber*, 423 U.S. 261 (1976). The Court is charged with making a *de novo* determination only of those portions of the Report to which specific objections are made, and the Court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole

or in part, the recommendation of the Magistrate Judge, or recommit the matter to the Magistrate Judge with instructions. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). In the absence of specific objections, the Court reviews the matter only for clear error. *See Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005) (stating that “in the absence of a timely filed objection, a district court need not conduct a de novo review, but instead must ‘only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation’” (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 72 advisory committee’s note)).

Here, because no objections were filed, the Court has reviewed the record, the applicable law, and the findings and recommendations of the Magistrate Judge for clear error. Finding none, the Court agrees that the § 2241 petition should be dismissed because Petitioner cannot show that a motion filed pursuant to § 2255 is inadequate or ineffective to test the legality of his conviction and/or sentence. Accordingly, the Court adopts and incorporates the Magistrate Judge’s Report (ECF No. 6) and dismisses this action *without prejudice* and without requiring Respondent to file a return.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/Bruce H. Hendricks
United States District Judge

July 28, 2021
Charleston, South Carolina

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

The parties are hereby notified that any right to appeal this Order is governed by Rules 3 and 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.